Ground Control Book Club Discussion Guide

1. Sarah has moved cities and houses frequently for most of her adult life. How does her concept of 'home' change throughout the story? Where do you consider your home, and why?

2. Three of the main female characters hold science degrees. Who, between Nancy, Linda and Sarah, do you think has achieved the most with theirs? Does their common education help them seem more similar or contrast them?

3. In this speculative near-future, everything is pretty much the same, except for the colony on Mars. How close do you think humanity is to achieving the capability for such a colony?

4. Do you think colonization of another planet is a good idea? What alternatives could you suggest?

5. Sarah has coasted along after Grant since university. Have you ever followed a spouse or friend on an adventure that wasn't yours? What are the benefits of tagging along as a willing sidekick? The drawbacks?

6. Early on, Sarah must decide whether to let Grant go to Mars without her and their children. If your spouse took a job on Mars (in a secure biodome, of course), would you go with them? What would you miss most about Earth?

7. On a shuttle like the one in the story, almost everything would be provided for you. What would be in your 20kg of personal effects?

8. What benefits are there for staying in one place for most of your life? What about for moving frequently? If you could go back and choose whether to put down roots or pack up and go often, which would you choose? Why? Is it different from the life you've led so far?

9. Sarah has a pretty big secret. Should she have told Grant the truth? What about Ethan?

10. What's your favourite David Bowie song, and why?